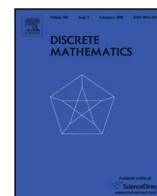




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Preface

The 5th Cracow Conference on Graph Theory “Ustroń 2006” was held in Ustroń, Poland from September 11 to 15, 2006. The meeting was next in the series of former conferences on graph theory organized by the Faculty of Applied Mathematics, AGH University of Science and Technology; held namely in Niedzica (1990), Zakopane (1994), Kazimierz Dolny (1997) and Czorsztyn (2002).

The conference site was the Bleweder Hotel. It is beautifully located in Ustroń-Zawodzie, the well-known health resort in the heart of Beskid Mountains, just on the border of Cieszyn Silesia, surrounded by marvelous chains of mountains.

The conference brought together 104 researchers from 20 countries working on various topics in graph theory, design theory, combinatorics and computing. There were nine invited lectures given by: Charles Colbourn, Michał Karoński, Gyula O.H. Katona, Charles Curtis Lindner, Bojan Mohar, Jaroslav Nešetřil, Bruce Reed, Alexander Rosa and Xuding Zhu. In addition, there were 70 contributed talks running in two parallel sessions. Selected extended abstracts were published as the conference proceedings volume in *Electronic Notes in Discrete Mathematics* vol. 24 (2006). This Special Issue of *Discrete Mathematics* contains a collection of selected papers presented at the conference; 25 manuscripts had been submitted and after a regular refereeing process, 16 of them were accepted for publication.

I would like to thank Sylwia Cichacz, Aneta Dudek, Artur Fortuna and Agnieszka Görlich for all their efforts and assistance in the organizing committee of the conference; we are grateful to all the participants for making our meeting successful. Special thanks are expressed to Peter L. Hammer and Douglas West for providing the opportunity to have this Special Issue of *Discrete Mathematics*. I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions to this issue as well as all the referees for their time and invaluable assistance.

Financial support by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland as well as “Krakow Business Park I.”, sponsors of the conference, is warmly acknowledged.

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28 October 2008

Available online 19 December 2008

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